

Application No.: 10/523,157

Final Office Action dated: January 23, 2007

Response to Final Office Action dated: March 23, 2007

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REMARKS

This Amendment and Response is submitted in reply to the Final Office Action dated January 23, 2007, in which:

claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as indefinite;

claims 1-3 and 6-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Japanese Application Publication No. 10006932;

claims 1-4 and 7-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 2,901,761 to Wallis;

claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Wallis in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,116,507 to Scinta;

claims 1, 3 and 4 were provisionally rejected on the basis of obviousness-type double patenting over claim 2 of U.S. Application No. 10/548,301 in view of Wallis; and

claim 9 was indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form and to overcome the 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, rejection.

Claims 1-9 are currently pending. The current Amendment amends claim 1 to include the recitations of claims 8 and 9, and cancels claims 8 and 9, leaving claims 1-7 pending upon entrance of the current Amendment.

Claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as indefinite, based on the recitation "the holding groove" lacking antecedent basis. Applicant notes that, when new claim 9 was added, it was erroneously made to depend from claim 7, but should have depended from claim 8. Furthermore, "the holding groove" recitation should have read "the retaining groove," which has proper antecedence in claim 8. While claim 9 has been cancelled by the current Amendment, the recitations of claims 8 and 9 that have been included in claim 1 have been corrected to remedy these errors. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, be withdrawn, and submits that all recitations in the amended claim 1 have the proper antecedent basis.

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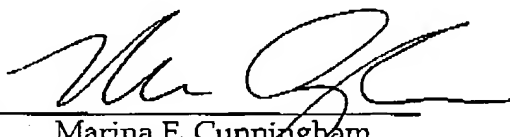
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To substantially comply with the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter, claim 1 has been amended to include the recitations of claim 9 (and of claim 8, from which claim 9 properly depends), as described above. The remaining claims 2-7 all depend, directly or indirectly, from the amended claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-7 are allowable, at least pursuant to the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter, and requests that the current application be passed to issue.

Applicant respectfully submits that nothing in the current Amendment constitutes new matter.

Applicant believes that no fees are due in connection with this Amendment and Response. If any fees are deemed necessary, authorization is hereby granted to charge any such fees to Deposit Account No. 13-0235.

Respectfully submitted,

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